

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, August 18, 2015 – 5:00pm  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

**Present:** Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst, Tyler Ward

**Also Present:** Pamela Brenner, Rodney Bartlett, Chief Ed Walker, Nicole MacStay

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Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**Public Hearing – Donations of Land**

Chair Miller reviewed the statutory requirement to hold two public hearings before the Select Board can vote to accept donations of land. Ms. Brenner described the location of the two properties, and said that both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission have been asked to comment. Mr. Juengst said that the Planning Board voted to recommend that the town acquire these properties for the use of the people of Peterborough. Mr. Ward said that the Conservation Commission is also in favor of accepting the properties.

**Public Forum – ATC Medical Cannabis Cultivation Location**

John Glowik, CEO of Prime Alternative Treatment Centers introduced himself and described the process by which the governing board of Prime ATC chose Peterborough as the location of its proposed Hillsborough County therapeutic cannabis cultivation facility. He said that Prime ATC has hired a chief operations officer from Colorado with six and a half years experience establishing distribution and cultivation centers, and another two years of experience in Connecticut, and a retired member of the New Hampshire State Police as its chief of security.

Mr. Glowik said that in his meetings with Town staff, Ms. Brenner said that one of the community's primary concerns is with regards to young people leaving the area after high school. He emphasized that therapeutic cannabis is a growing industry that will give young people an opportunity to stay in town and make a good career here, earning between \$40,000 and \$70,000 a year.

Mr. Glowik said that the patients in the Hillsborough County community will be receiving a great service; therapeutic cannabis will allow many people an option for a more natural painkiller. He said that they are committed to being a good community partner, and will be operated as a non-profit charitable trust. He said that he would like to see profits from the business go to fighting opiate abuse and law enforcement.

In terms of security, Mr. Glowik said that they will be utilizing the same two security firms that Prime ATC uses at their facilities in Connecticut. One of the firms sets up security at US embassies, the other does security for banks. He said that their plans for the cultivation center include many different mechanisms; employees will only have access to certain rooms of in the facility as their duties require; there will be under round-the-clock video surveillance, and two firms will be employed to do the monitoring. He said that their biggest concern is to stop the diversion of the product, and to that end employees will have cuffless uniforms that they will be required to change into and out of before and after their shifts. Mr. Glowik then went on to describe some of the products that will be manufactured at the site. Lastly, he explained the process by which the products will be transported out of the site to the distribution center.

John Martin, Chief of the Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Licensing and Certification, said that he oversees a number of licensing units, including those for nursing homes, child care centers, and now the therapeutic cannabis program. He explained that it is the responsibility of his bureau to implement and run the program. He said that they went through a selection process to choose three entities to operate cultivation and distribution centers in five regions around the state. He said that they will also be the bureau overseeing the administration of the patient cards. Two rules have been developed to administer the

program; the first governs who is eligible to receive the treatment, and another which govern the treatment center; both sets of rules are available on the bureau's website. He explained that the bureau wants to regulate and inspect the alternative treatment centers the same way that they monitor all other hospitals and facilities around the state. He said that he has been to and inspected a dispensary and cultivation center in Connecticut, and said that he found it to be in a most benign looking building, that had nothing about it to indicate that it was a cultivation center. He said that they were impressed with the professionalism and security of the site, and reported their findings were the same at the dispensary. He said that the bureau is very excited about this program, and that when they are ready to begin cultivating they will do a top-to-bottom inspection, where they will determine if Prime ATC is in full compliance before giving them the green light to proceed.

Chair Miller reviewed the rules of the public forum, noting in particular that each person present would be given the option to speak once before allowing people to speak a second time. She asked that people refrain from speaking for or against the merits of therapeutic cannabis since that is not a question before the Board. She also noted that the manufacture of pharmaceuticals is a use allowed by right in the proposed location, and that it is well outside the Drug-Free School zone.

Steven Graves, an owner of property on Concord Street, said that he is someone who will benefit from the legalization of medical marijuana. He said that he has been to Denver and California where there is a huge crime problem related to cultivation sites. He said that he is concerned about criminals accessing the facility, asks why it will be located across the highway from the High School, and asks about how the odor will be controlled, because he found that it was not well controlled in Denver. Mr. Glowik said that with regards to the odor he was not aware of the regulations in Colorado or California, but here it is highly regulated. He said that there are charcoal filtered HVAC systems to mitigate the smell. He added that in Denver recreational use is permitted, however the therapeutic cannabis manufactured here will be prepackaged before it leaves the facility. Mr. Martin added that his experience at the facility in Connecticut was that there was no detectable odor outside the building, nor inside until you got to the cultivation room. Chair Miller asked if there was an increase in crime; Mr. Glowik said that the level of security required in New England is much higher than that in Colorado, and so there is little crime; essentially the cultivation is done in a very big vault.

Anne Huberman, resident of Rivermead, said that she was concerned about how the marijuana would be processed, and if there would be any hazardous chemicals that may need to be disposed of; Mr. Glowik said that there are no hazardous chemicals involved in the process; this is an organic business, and the therapeutic compounds are extracted by squeezing the leaves and stalks.

Anne Marie Irwin, former State Senator, speaking to Mr. Martin said that she understands that his bureau is underfunded and understaffed; she asked how does he intend to ramp up the enforcement and training of the employees to become experts; Mr. Martin replied that this program has to be self-funded through ATC registration fees and card fees. In terms of training, he said that the inspectors do not need to be experts in marijuana cultivation, they just need to have a full understanding of the laws and rules.

Jack Ellercamp said that his business will share a wall with the cultivation facility, and said that he is interested in learning how the neighborhood will change from a security standpoint. Mr. Glowik said that there are will be no changes to the exterior of the building at this time. The first year there will be twenty to twenty-four employees with a transport leaving once a day, two days a week. Cameras will be installed to ensure that there is no diversion and to protect the safety of the employees as they go from the building to their cars. Mr. Ellercamp asked what the hours of operation will be; Mr. Glowik said that it will change with demand, but it will start with an eight hour day, and the security director will determine if security staff need to be there twenty-four/seven, however it will be monitored around the clock from day one. The time of the transport will change every day, with a notification of the day and time made to the Police Chief.

Adam Hamilton, EDA member, asked if the security proposed here is comparable to other pharmaceutical companies; Mr. Glowik said that there may be more security here than in many other pharmaceutical facilities.

Joe Hanlon said that he is in favor of the proposal, and noted that Peterborough has lost a number of good paying jobs recently. He said that he is in full support of medical marijuana, and has been to California as well where the cost was high; he asked how ill persons are able to afford the treatment. Mr. Martin said that insurance does not cover the treatment, but the rules adopted by the legislature require that all ATCs have a means of providing affordable cannabis to those in financial need.

State Representative Peter Leishman, said that Peterborough has a non-profit coming and that all of us in the room support creating new, high-paying jobs, but there is also high security and high mitigation involved; he said that he hopes that Merrimack has the distribution, but it seems to him that the distribution could be here too. Mr. Martin said that under the statute the ATCs are responsible for both distribution and cultivation; all four regions have separate cultivation and dispensaries, and that he is not aware of any intent to combine those.

Charles Chronopoulos asked how many jobs are full-time or part-time; Mr. Glowik said that between twenty and twenty-four will be full-time, and there will be six to eight seasonally-employed trimmers. He then described the ninety-day harvest cycle.

Mr. Ward asked what power source will they intend to use; Mr. Glowik said that electricity from the grid to start, but he has spoken to Mr. Witten about the potential of solar panels on the roof.

Andrea Cadwell said that she is in favor of the proposal, and has been working with Mr. Witten for six months to start a farm across the street from the high school and starting a CSA.

River Marmorstein, ConVal student, said that he is concerned about the proximity to the high school. He said that you can see the driveway from the high school, and that trucks will have to drive across the Drug-Free School zone. He said that he thinks that it sends the wrong message to students, even though it is a cultivation facility, students may use that as a justification for making a bad decision. Mr. Martin said that it will be incumbent on the State and the ATC to do enough outreach and education. This is a therapeutic program, and the state law is very narrow in scope of who is qualified; only very sick people with specific symptoms are eligible. He added that when people think of cannabis they often think of the chemical THC which gives cannabis its psychotropic properties, however many of these conditions do not benefit from the THC. These are forms of cannabis that do not have high levels of THC. Chair Miller added that it is sad to say this, but she has heard it said that kids at ConVal don't need to cross the street to get the drugs, and that there is an education problem.

Sarah Steinberg said that she thinks it would be a wonderful thing for students to see that marijuana can be used in a therapeutic way, and that she thinks that prescription drugs, alcohol and opioids are much scarier substances.

Doug Jones of Pine Street stated that there are no caregivers or qualifying patients here because they do not exist yet; Mr. Martin said that is correct, that cards have not been issued, but that there are potentially qualifying patients. He then described the certification process.

Mr. Juengst said that this has been educational and very informative; one of the things that caught his attention is that these kinds of medical uses will reduce the crime and side effects of other drugs. He asked if Mr. Glowik was aware of any evidence that therapeutic cannabis was being prescribed rather than other drugs; Mr. Glowik said that he is, and that in the eighteen states with medical marijuana laws the abusive use of opioids is down 36% according to a Brown University study. He said that Prime ATC's patients are usually 45 to 50 years old or older, and they are seeing dramatic effects.

Pauline Morris of Monadnock Voices for Prevention said that her organization would love to partner with Prime ATC and get into all the schools.

Ms. Irwin asked if all the regulations, rules and standards of the town have been met; Chair Miller said that they have.

Mr. Graves said that in his opinion this is the first step towards complete legalization, and that an important precedent is being set; Ms. Steinberg asked rhetorically why not here.

As there were no further questions or comments, Chair Miller closed the public forum at 6:20pm.

### **Open Space Trail Guide**

Francie Von Mertens distributed copies of the newly updated Open Space Trail Map to the Board. She said that it will be available at the Town House, online at peterboroughs.org and on the town's website.

### **Open Space Website**

Anne Huberman of the Open Space Committee said that they wanted to create a way for people to take a look at conservation in Peterborough and learn about issues around conserving land. They designed the website to reach three specific audiences; landowners, towns people who want to develop land, and the people who want to get out and enjoy the open space. Ms. Huberman then gave the Board a tour of the website.

### **Chief Ed Walker – Acceptance of Emergency Management Performance Grant**

Chief Walker explained that this was a reapplication for grant funds that the Town was awarded last year for an emergency generator and back-up emergency operations center to be located at the Police Station which were completed, and a dedicated fiber line to be run from the Town House to the Fire Station and the Police Station, which was not completed. This fiber connection will improve communications, allow for complete the complete back-up of the Town's servers offsite, and to facilitate the recovery of the Town's data and network in case of a disaster.

#### **Motion:**

Chair Miller made a motion to accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$17,500 for the purchase and installation of communication equipment to include a port switch and associated wiring for a town-wide communications upgrade. Furthermore, the Board acknowledged that the total cost of the project will be \$35,000, of which the town will be responsible for a 50% match; Mr. Ward seconded.

#### **Vote:**

Chair Miller, Mr. Ward and Mr. Juengst voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

### **Rodney Bartlett – Update**

Mr. Bartlett said that about a month ago David Macy, Resident Director at the MacDowell Colony, approached him and Stan Fry about the Colony being a part of the landscaping design process. It was decided that a group of fellows would be invited to compete to design the landscaping between the parking and the shore. He hoped that they would be returning soon with a very exciting design. Last Friday he met with DES to go over the design considerations for the parking lot and footbridge. He reported that it was a very positive meeting, and that after reviewing the plan they were encouraged to talk about a sidewalk and pedestrian access along the river itself, and asked if there was interest in looking at access along the Nubanusit Brook. DES is looking for communities whose core areas have been narrowed by industrial access to the waterway. He said he is not sure what the time frame is for that, but they seem to be excited to create opportunities for additional aesthetics. He said that will now put together additional plans, which will go back to the Conservation Commission for additional input. Otherwise the subdivision plan is essentially complete and ready for submission in September. He said they hope to have the final design in October or early November, and get it out to bid before Christmas.

Mr. Bartlett said that they are in the final stages of the Union Street project; final paving is scheduled of next week. One of the last aspects of the project is to place a stop sign at the end of Union Street where it intersects Elm and Main Streets. Chief Guinard said that the Police Department has received a lot of speeding complaints through that area, as well as additional foot traffic from the elementary school. The Board said that they were in favor of placing a stop sign as described at that intersection.

**Granite Street Property**

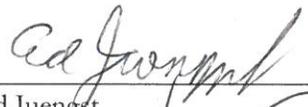
Mr. Juengst said that it was discussed at a recent Planning Board meeting where the recommendation back to the Select Board was to offer it for sale to an abutting property owner. Ms. Brenner reviewed a number of ways that could be done. Mr. Ward asked if it had to be put on the open market, or could it be offered to the neighbors first; Ms. Brenner said it could. Mr. Juengst said that he would be in favor of offering it to the abutting owners first as well. Ms. Von Mertens said that it is not a buildable lot, that the land is very steep.

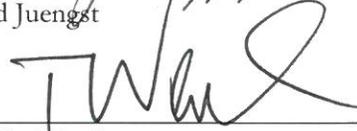
As there was no further business, Mr. Juengst made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Ward seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicole MacStay, Assistant Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

  
Barbara A. Miller, Chair

  
Ed Juengst

  
Tyler Ward

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

- 1.